**Amazon.com Review**

In the now-classic novel *Interview with the Vampire*, Anne Rice refreshed the archetypal vampire myth for a late-20th-century audience. The story is ostensibly a simple one: having suffered a tremendous personal loss, an 18th-century Louisiana plantation owner named Louis Pointe du Lac descends into an alcoholic stupor. At his emotional nadir, he is confronted by Lestat, a charismatic and powerful vampire who chooses Louis to be his fledgling. The two prey on innocents, give their "dark gift" to a young girl, and seek out others of their kind (notably the ancient vampire Armand) in Paris. But a summary of this story bypasses the central attractions of the novel. First and foremost, the method Rice chose to tell her tale--with Louis' first-person confession to a skeptical boy--transformed the vampire from a hideous predator into a highly sympathetic, seductive, and all-too-human figure. Second, by entering the experience of an immortal character, one raised with a deep Catholic faith, Rice was able to explore profound philosophical concerns--the nature of evil, the reality of death, and the limits of human perception--in ways not possible from the perspective of a more finite narrator.

While Rice has continued to investigate history, faith, and philosophy in subsequent Vampire novels (including [*The Vampire Lestat*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0345313860/$%7B0%7D), [*The Queen of the Damned*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0345351525/$%7B0%7D), [*The Tale of the Body Thief*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/034538475X/$%7B0%7D), [*Memnoch the Devil*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0345409671/$%7B0%7D), and [*The Vampire Armand*](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0679454470/$%7B0%7D)), *Interview* remains a treasured masterpiece. It is that rare work that blends a childlike fascination for the supernatural with a profound vision of the human condition. *--Patrick O'Kelley*